



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

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WATER BOARD APPROVES GRANTS FOR FOUR WATER PROJECTS

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The Idaho Water Resource Board approved grant applications totaling \$29,950 for water projects around the state at its February 15 regular meeting, Board officials announced today.

The financial requests approved by the Board include:

- A grant of \$7,450 to the New Plymouth Water Users Association to replace a broken section of irrigation pipe in a system that provides irrigation water;
- A grant for \$7,500 to the City of Rupert for a water supply study;
- A grant for \$7,500 to the City Grangeville for a water system improvements planning study; and
- A grant for \$7,500 to the City of Downey for a water system improvements planning study.

The Board deferred action on a request for a grant of \$6,000 and a loan of \$457,740 from the Fremont-Madison Irrigation District for engineering design and FERC licensing for a potential hydroelectric power plant at Chester Dam. The District asked for the delay due to a required two-month comment period in the FERC application process.

The status of Board planning projects was reviewed at the meeting. The Little Salmon River Basin Plan is currently before the Legislature for approval. Plans for the Lower Boise River and South Fork Clearwater River Basins are in progress.

The Board also extended the completion date for the Boise River Plan to 2003 due to growing citizen interest and reduced staff due to the state budget shortfall.